

Key Messages and Additional Resources to Support Professional Activity Days

The following key messages and resources have been developed to support school boards in delivering professional learning for the 2022-23 school year on topics included in [Policy/Program Memorandum 151](#). School boards should consider how the key messages and resources can be incorporated into professional learning sessions. Content may need to be differentiated as educators and staff will have varying degrees of familiarity with topic areas.

Learning recovery

Learning recovery

To support student learning recovery, educators can provide students with the following supports and opportunities:

- Determine student strengths and learning needs (e.g., through classroom assessments, EQAO assessments, report cards, credit accumulation, graduation rates, etc.) and provide individualized opportunities to support their next steps in learning.
- Numeracy and literacy supports based on identified needs:
 - Evidence-based reading intervention programs.
 - Resources to support the development of oral French-language skills.
 - Student transition supports, including early interventions with students with special education needs, to prepare them for a de-streamed Grade 9 program.

- Board- and school-based positions and professional learning opportunities to support the implementation of the Math Strategy.
- Comprehensive tutoring supports through the Tutoring Supports Program delivered by school boards, including in partnership with local community organizations.
 - Additional tutoring supports to address student learning needs include:
 - Funding is available through the Targeted Student Supports Envelope in the Grants for Student Needs.
 - Leverage expertise of Student Success Leads, School Effectiveness Leads, Student Success Teachers, and potential community partnerships.
 - One-on-one online tutoring programs through Mathify and Eurêka!
- Supports to modernize education to ensure students are better prepared with the job and life skills they need to be successful:
 - Entrepreneurship education pilot programs in partnership with third-party organizations.
 - Expanded Dual Credit programs, including for Indigenous students.

Resources

- [TVO Mathify](#)
- [Effective Early Reading Instruction: A teacher's guide](#)
- [Ontario Human Rights Commission: Right to Read Executive Summary](#)

Student mental health and well-being

Student mental health and well-being is integral for learning recovery. Students who report feeling mentally well, are more ready to learn, feel a stronger sense of belonging at school, and perform better academically. Schools provide students with the knowledge and skills to care for their own mental health and provide high quality mental health services for students experiencing mild to moderate mental health concerns. Every school board has a mental health leadership team who will help to contextualize resources for their board and use resources that have been provided by School Mental Health Ontario. To support the mental health and well-being of all students, educators will want to consider:

- Building welcoming and inclusive classrooms that support equity, help to prevent bullying and cyber-bullying, and promote positive mental health.
- Deepening their mental health literacy so they can engage in conversations with students when teaching about mental health in the curriculum.
- Knowing the pathways to support for mental health in their school if they are concerned about a student.

Resources

- [School Mental Health Ontario \(smho-smso.ca\)](https://smho-smso.ca)
- [Grades 1-8 Health and Physical Education curriculum](#)
- [Grades 9-12 Health and Physical Education curriculum](#)
- [PPM 144: Bullying Prevention and Intervention](#)

Early reading and mathematics

The elementary math curriculum provides space for teachers to dive deeper into content and provide support to students who may need extra time with concepts. Evidence-based, high-yield classroom strategies should be used to support early reading for students in Kindergarten to Grade 3.

Resources

- [Grades 1-8 Elementary Math curriculum](#)
- [Growing success: assessment, evaluation, and reporting in Ontario's schools, kindergarten to Grade 12](#)
- [High-Impact Instructional Practices in Mathematics](#)
- [Elementary Math Long-Range Plans](#)
- [Effective Early Reading Instruction: A teacher's guide](#)
- [Ontario Human Rights Commission: Right to Read Executive Summary](#)

Supporting de-streamed classrooms

Beginning in September 2022, all Grade 9 subjects will be offered in one stream.

De-streaming Grade 9 is helping to create the conditions for all students to be successful, to be prepared for the senior program in secondary school, and to pursue any post-secondary pathway they choose. Educators should:

- Support students using a variety of effective instructional strategies, including culturally responsive and relevant pedagogies that enable students with differing learning needs, preferences and experiences to demonstrate what they know and can do, and achieve academic success.
- Build a class community that creates relational trust which begins with having high academic expectations for and of all students.
- Get to know each student, including their strengths, interests and what they identify they need to help them succeed.

Resources

- [De-streamed Grade 9 Math course](#)

- [De-streamed Grade 9 Math Key Changes](#)
 - [De-streamed Grade 9 Science course](#)
 - [De-streamed Grade 9 Science Key Changes](#)
 - [Introduction to Effective Teaching Practices for the De-streamed Grade 9 Math Classroom](#)
 - [High-Impact Instructional Practices in Mathematics](#)
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Student and School Safety

Ontario College of Teachers' (OCT) Sexual Abuse Prevention Program

As of January 1, 2022, current and reinstating OCT members are required to successfully complete the OCT's Sexual Abuse Prevention Program by September 15, 2022. The program is offered entirely online and can be completed over multiple sessions. Successful completion of the program will be noted on each teacher's public register to serve as a tool for transparency.

The ministry encourages school boards to designate time for teachers to complete the Sexual Abuse Prevention Program under the priority area of "Student and School Safety" during one of the mandatory 2022-23 Professional Activity (PA) days prior to September 15, 2022.

Resources

- [OCT's Sexual Abuse Prevention Program](#)
- [Canadian Centre for Child Protection](#)
- [OCT website](#)
- [FAQs](#)

Anti-sex trafficking and cyber protection

Anti-Sex trafficking

All students have a right to a safe and nurturing learning environment and a climate that is safe, positive, and free from exploitation at school and in the broader school community. Caring adults and students within schools can promote a sense of student belonging, increase protective factors, help to reduce risk factors associated with sex trafficking and support early intervention through identification and appropriate response, including connecting impacted persons to supportive services.

[Policy/Program Memorandum 166: Keeping Students Safe: Policy Framework for School Board Anti-Sex Trafficking Protocols](#) was released in July 2021. School board staff, including teachers, administrators, and other school staff should:

- Learn to use a human rights-based approaches to combatting sex trafficking, including the application of an equity lens, anti-racism, a gender-based lens, trauma-informed approaches and Indigenous cultural competencies.
- Invite student groups to participate and inform the design, development, delivery and implementation of anti-sex trafficking protocols.

Resources

- [Anti-human trafficking services and supports](#)
- [White Ribbon's digital resource](#)
- [Speak Out: Stop Sex Trafficking \(Indigenous-focused awareness campaign\)](#)
- [Ontario's Human Trafficking Digital Education Tool: The Trap](#)
- [Grades 1-8 Health and Physical Education curriculum](#)
- [Grades 9-12 Health and Physical Education curriculum](#)

Cyber protection

Working, learning and living through the pandemic have shifted the way we rely on, and interact with, technology.

Educators and students need the knowledge and tools to stay safer online. Cyber protection is the term that we are using to reference cyber risk reduction for the elementary and secondary sector. It encompasses the three pillars of online/cyber safety, privacy protection and cyber security.

Over the past two years, boards have received information with tips and best practices on cyber security, online safety and online privacy - curated for educator and student needs.

Educators should:

- Use board provisioned or sanctioned devices, education tools and resources.
- Consult with the board IT department.
- Minimize the amount of personal information collected.

Resources

- [2021 Cyber Awareness Month campaign](#)
- [2020 Cyber Awareness Month campaign](#)
- [Cyber awareness calendar for school year 2021-22](#)
- [Get Cyber Safe](#)
- [Grade 10 Career Studies](#)

- [Grades 1-8 Health and Physical Education curriculum](#)
- [Grades 9-12 Health and Physical Education curriculum](#)
- [PPM 144: Bullying Prevention and Intervention](#)

Supporting students with prevalent medical conditions in schools

[Policy/Program Memorandum \(PPM\) 161: Supporting Children and Students with Prevalent Medical Conditions \(Anaphylaxis, Asthma, Diabetes, and/or Epilepsy\) in Schools](#) outlines that students with asthma, diabetes, and/or epilepsy, and/or are at risk of anaphylaxis, should be supported with a Plan of Care.

Students learn to the best of their ability when they feel physically, culturally, and emotionally safe in their learning environment. Educators can:

- Leverage evidence-based resources online developed by various health and education partners, and
- Review school board policies, including the roles and responsibilities of parents, students and school staff.

Resources

- [Healthy Schools - Medical Conditions](#)
- [Ontario Human Rights Commission - Policy on accessible education for students with disabilities](#)
- [Ophea - Supporting Students with Prevalent Medical Conditions](#)

Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)

Elementary science and technology

With the growing automation of jobs, extraordinary technological advancements and the realities of a global economy, all students need to be equipped with STEM-related concepts and skills to help them prepare, navigate and shape their future successfully.

The revised elementary Science and Technology curriculum includes new mandatory learning on STEM skills and connections, engineering design, hands-on experiential learning, coding, Indigenous knowledges and perspectives, food literacy and climate change. The revised curriculum makes explicit connections to the skilled trades and technological education and investigates the contributions of people with diverse experiences to science and technology.

The new de-streamed Grade 9 Science course will build on the elementary Science and Technology curriculum as students continue to develop STEM skills and apply scientific research and experimentation, as well as use engineering design processes to investigate concepts in biology, chemistry, physics, and Earth and space science.

Resources

- [Grades 1-8 Science and Technology](#)
- [Grades 1-8 Science and Technology Key Changes](#)
- [Grades 1-8 Science and Technology Parent Guide](#)
- [Grade 9 Science Course](#)
- [Grade 9 Science Parent Guide](#)

Connections to skilled trades and apprenticeship

By 2025, it is estimated that one in five jobs in Ontario will be in the skilled trades, but the average age of people entering the trades is 29. At the same time, a third of tradespeople are nearing retirement.

Students can learn about the skilled trades, including the variety of rewarding and high-demand STEM-related skilled trades careers, through the curriculum, job skills programs and experiential learning opportunities that expose students to the skills and knowledge to succeed in the apprenticeship pathway.

Students are encouraged to explore labour market information and statistics to help plan their future careers, including through the mandatory Grade 10 Career Studies course.

Job skills programs like Specialist High Skills Major, Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program, and Dual Credits, as well as cooperative education help students see the connections between their studies, the world beyond high school, and their future careers.

The Skilled Trades Bursary Program provides a \$1,000 bursary to Grade 11 or 12 students who have financial and other barriers to completing their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD), who are enrolled in a cooperative education program, and have plans to pursue the skilled trades.

Resources

- [Skilled Trades in Ontario Schools – Job Skill programs \(SHSM, Dual Credits, OYAP, Co-op\)](#)
- [Ontario's Labour Market](#)
- [Grades 9 - 12 Technological Education curriculum](#)
- [Grade 10 Career Studies](#)

- [Grade 10 Career Studies Parent Guide](#)
- [Grade 11-12 Cooperative Education](#)
- [Education and Career Life Planning](#)
- [Creating Pathways to Success Policy](#)

Equity and inclusive education

It is important to ensure that equity and inclusive education should be applied in an integrated manner across all professional learning topics. School boards should consider:

- Developing practices that promote and uphold equity and human rights and that help create learning environments free of discrimination.
- The importance of increasing teachers' capacities for effective, culturally responsive instruction, assessment, and evaluation in all classrooms.
- Ways to confront racism and intersecting forms of discrimination that negatively affect student learning, achievement, and well-being, with the goal of improving outcomes for all students, including students with disabilities as well as Indigenous, Black and racialized students.
- Ways to provide equitable learning opportunities to support students with disabilities, special education needs and those who experience intersecting forms of discrimination through a teaching and learning approach that recognizes individual strengths and needs.
- Exploring and sharing resources that promote an understanding of the impacts of racism on the mental health and well-being of racialized students in the classroom and schools e.g. [Equity and Mental Health Resources for School and System Leaders - School Mental Health Ontario \(smho-smso.ca\)](#).
- Community organizations and resources that provide culturally responsive services and supports to students, parents and families.
- Equity and inclusive education policies, with areas of focus supported by [Policy/Program Memorandum \(PPM\): Developing and Implementing Equity and Inclusive Education Policies in Ontario Schools](#).
- Ways to develop knowledge of the impacts of the Indian Act, the residential school system, treaties and historical exclusion of Indigenous peoples.
- Work to strengthen understanding of First Nation, Métis and Inuit perspectives, cultures, histories, languages, and contributions, and the contemporary realities of Indigenous students by collaborating with Indigenous partners to implement curriculum.

- Exploring new learning focused on First Nations, Métis, and Inuit perspectives, cultures, contributions, and histories in the Ontario curriculum, including [Science and Technology, Grades 1 to 8, Science, Grade 9,](#) and [Civics and Citizenship, Grade 10.](#)

Resources

- [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action](#)
- [What We Have Learned: Principles of Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- [International Decade for People of African Descent – 2015- 2024](#)
- [OHRC policies on creed, competing rights, sexual and gender-based harassment, gender identity, mental health, sexual orientation and e-learning on racism and human rights 101](#)
- [PPM 166: Keeping Students Safe: Policy Framework for School Board Anti-Sex Trafficking Protocols](#)
- [Teaching human rights in Ontario – A guide for Ontario schools](#)
- [Holland Bloorview: Project Inclusion](#)
- [Human Rights, Equity and Inclusive Education – Culturally Responsive and Relevant Pedagogy \(Ministry of Education\)](#)
- [Grade 9 to 12 First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Studies](#)
- [Ontario Acting to Combat Antisemitism in Schools](#)
- [Ontario Announces Plan to Combat Antisemitism in Schools | Ontario Newsroom](#)